

**Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County**

**Board of Directors**

**Dec 16, 2017 7:30 PM**

**Silverman Suite Jewish Community Campus Rockland NY**

**Attendance:** Lisa Green, Chair, Stephen Cohn, Scott Coopersmith, Steve Gold, Jonathan Meister, Mike Satran, Carol Schiller, Mathew Schiering, Steve Schulman, Bob Silverman, Harriet Spevack, Charna Weissman, Bonnie Werk

Gary Siepser, CEO

**Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of November 6, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**Campaign Report:** The campaign report was distributed. While the campaign continued to be ahead in terms of average gift to gift increase and pace, Gary shared his concern that many of Federation's best supporters had yet to make their gifts. He asked board members to follow-up before the end of the month with donors they had volunteered to speak with. The plans for Super Sunday were reviewed and all board members were invited to spend an hour or 2 reaching out to Federation supporters.

**Teen Initiative:** Gary reported that after conversation with the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, Rockland students are invited to participate in iCan, a program designed to give high school students the tools they need to address anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bigotry and hate-speech in campus settings. Rockland will pay \$80 per student for the all day program. Rockland will also provide a bus from the Jewish Community Campus to the event location at the Dwight Englewood School. Gary suggested that up to \$5,000 be made available from the Federation Endowment for the bus, registration fee, publicity and any other related expense. It was suggested that the event be publicized through the Journal News. After discussion a motion was made and seconded: Resolved that up to \$5,000 from the Endowment Fund be spent to fund Rockland student participation in the iCan program in March 2018. The motion was approved.

**Finance Report:** Mike Satran reviewed the highlights of the finance report for November 30, 2017 noting that costs were well controlled. Mike reported that with the operating bank balance being over \$150,000, Federation would pay all local and overseas grants on schedule by the end of the month.

Mike distributed and reviewed with the board Federation's audit for the period ending June 30, 2017. He reported that the Finance/Audit Committee had met with the auditor; Rifkin and Company. Federation received an opinion letter which had no qualifications.

After discussion and upon motion and second, the board adopted the audit.

Mike also reported that Federation's tax return was filed on-time.

**Community Relations Council Report:** Steve Gold reported the CRC is monitoring the post-election rhetoric which has not moderated since the election. The hate speech and anti-Semitic social media seems even more intense and frequent. In discussion, it was agreed that Federation needs to become more knowledgeable and sophisticated in its efforts to counter hate in social media and should also partner with other groups; both Jewish and non-Jewish, to address this. It was agreed that Federation should engage some like-minded community organizations and conduct a workshop to build relationships and improve Federation's strategy (from mostly reactive to more pro-active) and skill set in social media.

**New York State Security Grants:** Gary updated the board on the status of filings for New York State security grants for which the board made available \$5,000 from the endowment at the November meeting. The Jewish Community Center required a new security audit (Past audits were too old to qualify for this application.) which was paid for with Federation grant funds and 2 additional schools were able to file with Federation paying the grant writer who is a senior employee of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.